



# MARY LOU DICKERSON

State Representative • 36th Legislative District



## 2004 Legislative Report and Survey

Dear Friends,

Now that the 2004 legislative session has begun, I'd like your help as I sort through emerging issues. Please take a moment to fill out the brief survey on the third page. Your answers would be a great help to me as I make choices and budget my time and energy.

I'm also writing to tell you about a rapidly growing threat to our Puget Sound – sewage and pollution from cruise ships.

As you'll see inside, cruise ship visits to Seattle are skyrocketing, racing far ahead of environmental safeguards. Cruise ships are essentially floating cities with built-in industries, churning out tons and tons of sewage and other pollutants. But unlike cities and industries on land, cruise ships are exempt from key water quality laws.

I've introduced legislation that will enable Seattle to reap the economic benefits of cruise ship visits while sharply reducing the extreme threat to Puget Sound from cruise ship dumping of sewage and wastes. I'd like to hear your thoughts on this issue.

I'd also like to thank all of you who responded to my previous newsletter and shared your suggestions and ideas. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have a suggestion, idea or would simply like to share your insights. During the 2004 legislative session (thru March 11, 2004) I can be reached at my Olympia office at 360.786.7860 or via the toll-free legislative hotline at 1.800.562.6000. I do look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou

State Representative, 36<sup>th</sup> District

### Committees

*Chairwoman*, Juvenile Justice  
& Family Law  
Children & Family Services  
Transportation

### Olympia Office

PO Box 40600  
Mod 1 Building - rm 107  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7860

### Toll-free Legislative Hotline

1-800-562-6000

### TDD (for hearing impaired)

1-800-635-9993

### E-mail

dickerso\_ma@leg.wa.gov

### The Legislature's Internet Home Page

<http://www.leg.wa.gov>

## Cruising for Trouble?

### *Why Washington needs to regulate cruise-ship dumping*

Cruise ships can be a boon to Seattle, but only if we protect our fragile Puget Sound environment against the staggering increases we're seeing in cruise ship pollution and sewage.

### Floating cities

Cruise ships brought fewer than 7,000 passengers to the Port of Seattle in all of 1999. This year they'll bring a *half-million* visitors in floating cities that generate enormous volumes of pollutants. *In a single day*, a typical cruise ship produces:

- 23 gallons of toxic wastes from dry cleaners, photo labs, etc.
- 30,000 gallons of sewage.
- 270,000 gallons of sink, shower, laundry and kitchen waste.
- 11.5 tons of garbage.
- as much air pollution as 12,000 cars.

### Without regulation

Federal law offers little protection against these pollutants, as the industry enjoys sweetheart exemptions from Clean Water Act requirements. And we have no state laws to fill the void.

The cruise ship industry says we don't need environmental protection laws, because we can trust voluntary pollution standards, practices and monitoring. Sorry. Voluntary agreements have offered the same level of protection against cruise ship pollution as against mad cow disease.

### The Alaskan experience

Ask Alaska, which independently tested industry claims about the content of cruise-ship discharges into Alaskan waters. Republican Gov. Tony Knowles called the results "dis-

gusting and disgraceful": 79 of 80 ships had levels of fecal coliform or suspended solids that would be illegal on land — up to 100,000 times the federal standard.

Alaska called a special session of the legislature to enact strict laws against cruise ship dumping. These laws are working. Companies have put their most environmentally-friendly ships on Alaskan voyages. Dumping violations have been sharply reduced.

### Recent lessons

We need laws, not just promises, to protect the Sound. After promising California in writing not to discharge anything while in the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, a cruise ship did it anyway, saying it didn't violate the law, only a voluntary agreement. That's one reason why in September California enacted strong laws against cruise ship discharges.

Here in Washington, just last May, a cruise ship accidentally dumped 40 tons of raw human sewage into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The company said it made a mistake, but violated no laws. Well, that shows why Washington *needs* laws regulating cruise ship dumping.

### Here's what I propose

Having weaker waste and sewage-dumping rules than other cruise ship stops is just asking for trouble. With support from environmental leaders, I've authored legislation to give our Puget Sound waters, wildlife and economy the *legal* protection they deserve. My legislation:

- Prohibits cruise ship from dumping sewage, toxic chemicals, and other pollution in Washington waters that exceed



*If we don't protect Puget Sound from  
cruise-ship pollution, no one will.*

pollution standards we impose on land-based industries.

- Requires reporting and independent testing of cruise ship wastes.
- Charges cruise ships a small per-passenger fee (\$1.75 or less) dedicated to enforcing cruise-ship pollution standards and monitoring wastes.
- Creates a "Washington Certified Clean Water Cruise Ship" designation, so the public and potential customers know whether a cruise ship is environmentally-friendly.

Most cruise ship passengers are friends of the environment. They *want* to know their ships are not harming the environments they voyage to see. As citizens of Washington, we have a duty to preserve our Puget Sound waters, fish and wildlife, not only for their sake, but for ourselves, our economy and future generations.

# 2004 LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

Your ideas are important to me. Please fill out this survey by circling the answers that best reflect your views. **When you're done, please re-fold this page so that my return address is showing, and drop it in the mail.** Thanks very much for your help!

**1. How often do you use the Alaskan Way Viaduct?**

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Seldom
- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Nearly every day

**2. If you use the Viaduct, what do you mainly use it for?**

- ☐ Commuting to work
- ☐ For school
- ☐ Shopping
- ☐ Business deliveries

**3. I've proposed raising income limits for senior property-tax relief from \$30,000 to \$35,000 to get relief to 17,000 additional seniors. How do you feel about this idea?**

- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Strongly Support

**4. I've proposed a law to allow state agencies to save taxpayer money by buying medicines from Canada, even though the Bush administration has asked states not to do this. What do you think about my proposal?**

- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Strongly Support

**5. Should Washington State bar further imports of low-level nuclear waste from other states until the current cleanup of Hanford is complete?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

**6. Gov. Locke wants to re-enact \$74 million of business-tax incentives targeted to encouraging research and development that promotes job growth. Do you support this use of tax dollars?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

**7. Lawmakers need to prioritize future investments in transportation. In addition to funding more road construction, do you think the state should invest more in the following transportation alternatives?**

- |            |                              |                             |
|------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Buses      | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Trains     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| HOV lanes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Bike paths | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**8. Would you support legislation to prohibit teacher strikes and require binding arbitration to settle labor disputes between teachers and school districts?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

*Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about state issues?*

---

---

---

---

---

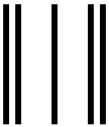
---

---

---



*Hearing from you helps me speak for you.*



Please  
place  
stamp  
here



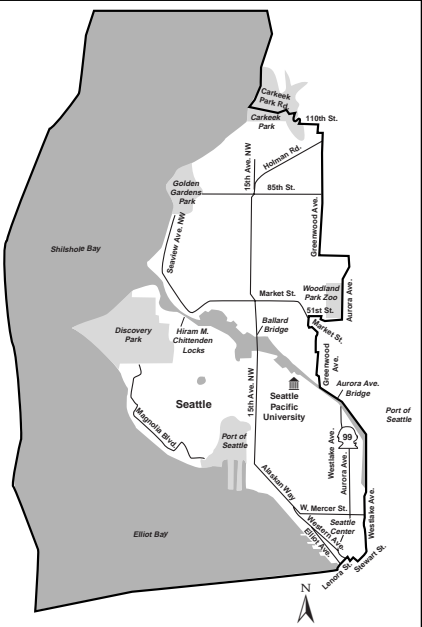
Representative  
**MARY LOU DICKERSON**

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

36<sup>th</sup>  
District  
Day!

Please join Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Rep. Helen Sommers and me at our annual 36<sup>th</sup> District Day in the Legislature on February 16<sup>th</sup>. It's good fun and will provide an inside look at the Legislature in action.

We'll meet at 10:30 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1 of the John A. Cherberg Building to launch our District Day events and tour of the capitol campus. From noon to 1:00 p.m., we'll have a brown bag lunch in Senate Hearing Room 1. **Please join us!** For more information, contact my assistant Jenny Egan at (360) 786-7670.



Printed on recycled paper

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Washington State  
Department of Printing

2004 Legislative Report  
and Survey

Representative  
**MARY LOU DICKERSON**  
Mod 1 Bldg., Rm. 107  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600